Chief's Update April 6, 2012



Hello everyone,

The rising temperatures signal that spring has arrived. As spring is a symbol of renewal, it is appropriate that April ushers in Advanced Training for supervisors. Our Strategic Planning efforts consistently emphasize safety as our priority, and our Training Units have been hard at work assuring that all employees have the information and training needed to meet this organizational goal.

Starting on April 17th, Supervisor AOT will provide our civilian and sworn supervisors with a refresher on such topics as complaint investigations, biased based enforcement awareness, and an update on the diverse internal, local, and regional partnership resources available for our crime fighting efforts. Supervisors will also get additional training on the E-Performance program. Now, even though these topics may not seem terribly exciting, they will provide supervisors with the most current information needed to best provide quality supervision to employees.

The second half of the day will focus on operational responses to critical events. In the past months, the east valley has seen its share of incidents involving shootings at public venues such as shopping malls and music clubs. These incidents are generally unpredictable, but the response to them is textbook. At AOT, supervisors will have the opportunity to critically assess responses to various incidents in a sterile environment, the goal of which is to best prepare supervisors to respond timely, effectively and appropriately during an actual critical event. Overall, AOT promises to augment the skills of our supervisors.

Even greater rising temperatures will signal that summer is near, and Supervisor AOT will be quickly followed by Summer AOT for all sworn employees. Starting May 1st, in addition to low light qualification and judgmental shooting, officers will refresh crime-fighting skills such as defensive and control tactics, building searches, and response to an active shooter. We know that it takes purposeful practice in these high-risk activities to make responses consistent and seamless. Trained officers are better and safer at their jobs with consistent practice, and this is critical when our number one job is apprehending criminals. Finally, summer will give way to fall and with it bring Fall AOT. Significant time will be spent at the driving track with new mechanisms to assist in our battle against inattention and distracted driving as we juggle the many responsibilities of responding to calls for service and keeping our community safe.

All of this training would not be possible without the work of our Training and Firearms Units. These employees are personally committed to making TPD employees the best they can be. Whether it be Open Mat, Open Range, CrossFit drills, time spent behind the wheel, producing web-based training, or the myriad of other areas that assist in minimizing risk and increasing safety for our employees, members of the Training and Firearms Units can be counted on to practice what they preach. They are a continual resource for our employees and are to be commended for their tireless effort and leadership.

Thank you and stay safe,

Cmdr. Fran Santos